

many men and women away from suicide. Its innovative Heroes Thanking Heroes program provides transitional, part-time, flexible employment to more than 40 combat-wounded veterans or their primary caregivers, enabling them to make phone calls from their homes, usually to personally thank donors for their contributions to the Coalition. Other aspects include an emergency financial aid program, a holiday gift program, and road to recovery conferences.

The Coalition has done tremendous work in Virginia and across the country such as donating more than \$45 million in direct aid to veterans. The Coalition has provided tens of thousands of dollars through grants to other notable veterans' organizations in Virginia and elsewhere. Under the leadership of a constituent of mine, President & CEO David Walker, the Coalition has further expanded its support of our wounded warriors and become one of the most respected veterans-support groups in the nation. In fact, over two-thirds of the Coalition's staff are combat-wounded or their spouse or caregiver.

Recently, the Coalition made a substantial grant of direct financial aid to HeroHomes, another worthy organization, to assist five wounded veterans and their families with new homes that meet their different physical needs. The Coalition has also supported the Boulder Crest Retreat for Military and Veteran Wellness in Bluemont, yet another organization in my district that is doing tremendous work for veterans who need mental and physical recovery from the suffering of war.

I look forward to watching the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of so many American heroes. The debt of gratitude owed to the men, women, and their families who have served as part of our nation's armed forces is impossible to repay. I have been honored to recognize their sacrifice and support efforts to empower members of the military as they adjust back to civilian life. To that end, I supported the Hire More Heroes Act, a common-sense bipartisan piece of legislation that will help create jobs for veterans transitioning to civilian careers.

I am proud that the Coalition to Support America's Heroes is based in my district in Leesburg and know they will continue to help brave men and women all across our country. The work they do cannot be overstated and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the important work the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes continues to do each day to help veterans.

#### HONORING FOUR SPECIAL WOMEN

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2016*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring four special women in the District of Columbia who attend the Zion Baptist Church and will reach the significant milestone of turning 100 years old this summer. All four women are native Washingtonians, have known each other since early childhood and have remained lifelong friends. The Zion Baptist Church will officially recognize Ruth Eliza-

beth Chatman Hammett (June 14, 1916), Gladys Ware Butler (July 4, 1916), Bernice Grimes Underwood (July 23, 1916) and Leona Costello Barnes (July 18, 1916) on June 18, 2016.

As little girls, the four grew up together in Southwest D.C. and could not have predicted, as they reflected on the many years and changes that followed their lives, that they would one day celebrate their 100th birthdays together. As they grew up, got married and had children, they witnessed the shaping of a remarkable century. They had relatives who fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. They felt hope listening to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the despair of the riots that wracked their beloved city after his assassination. As they settled into middle age, they saw their family members join in the civil rights struggle for equality as they lived out their days in the neighborhood, and they never imagined that their friendship would outlast the stoops and storefronts.

But in the 1950s, the area was marked for urban renewal and razed, decimating the community as their church congregation and neighbors were eventually scattered. But despite this upheaval, the four women's friendship persisted. They saw each other become grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and "great-great-greats". They still share fond memories of places and people that no one else remembers and by the age of 92, the four women thought that they had seen it all. But then something truly amazing happened that they never would have predicted. A black man became the President of the United States. To each of these four women it was the culmination of a lifelong journey as black people in America, and they only wished that some of their relatives could have lived to witness such a historic event.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in recognizing the full lives of Ruth Elizabeth Chatman Hammett, Gladys Ware Butler, Bernice Grimes Underwood, and Leona Costello Barnes, and in celebrating this momentous occasion, which they are sharing together as lifelong friends.

#### LETTERS FROM NORTH SIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON LONG ISLAND SOUND

#### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2016*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share letters written to me by Mrs. Widyn's 4th Grade Class at North Side Elementary School in East Williston about the importance of preserving Long Island Sound. It was a pleasure to visit this class and see how motivated they are to save our environment broadly, and Long Island Sound specifically. I would like to insert letters they wrote to me in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask the Congress to set aside some money to keep the Long Island Sound clean. I have many reasons why we need to protect this beautiful body of water. One reason is that it is our greatest natural resource. Also, there are many animal habitats that are getting wrecked because of all

the dirty garbage. Some of the animals are birds, wildlife and marine life. There is also a bird there that is endangered called the Piping Plover. The Piping Plover might become extinct if we keep this up. One last reason is that in a few years there would so much garbage and pollution that it will cost even more money to fix than it already does.

I am 9 years old and I figured out the importance of keeping the Long Island Sound in good shape. I hope the people we elect to represent us gives this problem their consideration and that they understand the importance of this big issue, not just for the people who live on the Long Island Sound, but for the environment that everybody shares.

Sincerely,

BRIANNA JANICEK.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask Congress to give money to protect the Long Island Sound from being polluted! It is our greatest natural resource!

A reason why we need money to protect the Long Island Sound is we eat fish, oysters and clams from the Long Island Sound and nobody wants to eat fish, oysters or clams that have been in polluted water!

Another reason is polluted water can cause habitat loss for marine life, and if there are no fish, the birds that eat fish will starve!

Finally, many people like swimming in the Long Island Sound and if the water they're swimming in is polluted, they will not want to swim there anymore!

I am 9 years old, and realize how important the Long Island Sound is. I hope Congress sets aside money to protect the Long Island Sound!

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

GRACE WONG.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to because I think the Congress should set aside money to keep the Long Island Sound beautiful and clean.

I think we should protect the Long Island Sound because it is our greatest natural resource. It gives us five billion dollars in our economy. If the water is not clean, people will not want to come here anymore and we can kiss five billion dollars bye-bye. People who live near the Long Island Sound will want to move if the water is polluted because dirty and filthy water will be washing against their houses. I would not want to live their either. Finally, wildlife and marine life will continue to decrease in population. The piping plover will eventually become extinct if we continue to pollute the Long Island Sound. Also, the fish that we eat could be dirty and unhealthy for our body.

I know I am only nine years old, but I take this very seriously. Thank you for reading my letter. I hope something is done to protect the Long Island Sound.

Sincerely,

SAHAMA DHAMA.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask Congress to set aside money to keep the Long Island Sound clean and beautiful. There are many reasons why we need to protect this body of water. First of all, the Long Island Sound is one of our greatest resources. Also, if it is polluted many animals may die like birds, wildlife, and marine life. We should also have money for the Long Island Sound because it helps our economy. Fishing, tourism, and recreation take place on the Long Island Sound.

I am 9 years old and I realize how important it is to keep the Long Island Sound protected. I hope everyone who loves the Long Island Sound understands its importance for the future of our environment that we all share.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope you are successful in obtaining funds to protect the Long Island Sound.

Sincerely,

RAHUL DAWAR.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am a 9 year old boy who is writing a letter to you to ask Congress to give money to protect the Long Island Sound.

Here are the three reasons why we should protect the Long Island Sound. First, the Long Island Sound is one of Long Island's greatest resources. Second, habitat loss might happen if people keep polluting the Long Island Sound. The piping plover, birds, wildlife, and marine life may be lost. Lastly, water quality needs to be improved.

Thank you for reading my letter and I hope you will ask Congress to realize how important it is to protect the Long Island Sound.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH DOLEZAL.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask congress to give money to keep the Long Island Sound safe. There are many good reasons why we need to do this.

I am 10 years old and I realize how important it is to keep this beautiful body of water safe. If we do not do this, it will cause habitat loss for wildlife, marine life and birds such as the piping plover. Also, it will make our waters polluted, so we need to have money to improve our water quality. And I believe the Long Island Sound is our greatest natural resource. I hope the people we elect to represent us understand the importance of this issue, not just for the people of Long Island but for the future of the environment we share.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY LOPEZ.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL, I am writing this letter to you because I want to keep the Long Island Sound clean and beautiful for everyone. I have 3 reasons why we should keep this body of water clean.

I am 10 years old and in 4th grade. I know how important it is to keep the Long Island Sound protected. My first reason why we should keep the Long Island Sound clean is . . . It's not ok for the people that live near the Long Island Sound to have dirty water with garbage in them coming up to their houses. My second reason is that all this garbage is hurting the marine life, and if people are fishing they might not get healthy fish. My 3rd reason is that if we do not stop this now, in the future there is going to be more garbage and it will cost more money and it will be harder to fix the Long Island Sound.

Thank you for reading my letter and I hope we do something to help the Long Island Sound. Thank You for coming to my classroom.

Sincerely,

KAYLA ROGAN.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask Congress to set aside money to keep the Long Island Sound clean and beautiful. There are many reasons why we need to protect this body of water.

One reason is that 20 million people live within 50 miles of the Long Island Sound. Also, animals can lose their habitats like the Piping Plover. Finally, it is our greatest natural resource.

I am 9 years old and I realize how important it is to keep the Long Island Sound Protected. I hope that this letter will convince people to keep the Long Island Sound clean and safe.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

CHANELLE MOZA.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask Congress to set money aside to keep the Long Island Sound clean and not polluted.

I am 9 years old, and I know how important it is to keep the Long Island Sound protected. I hope all of Congress understands how important it is to help the environment and the Sound. I think people should stop polluting the Sound so the marine animals under water are safe. People swim in this body of water so we need to make sure it stays clean.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope your ideas about the Long Island Sound are heard in Congress on the Long Island Sound.

Sincerely,

RYLAN ROCKFELD.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you because I would like you to get money for the Long Island Sound so it will stay beautiful. There are many reasons to protect this water.

I am ten years old, and I see how important it is to protect the Long Island Sound. We need to keep the Long Island Sound clean because there are birds that might take a sip of the water and if it's polluted it would hurt the birds. There is marine life that needs to be protected. They might eat the trash from the Long Island Sound and die. If you catch a fish and the fish took in some polluted water, it would not be safe to eat. Another reason why we should ask congress for money is so we help clean the Long Island Sound and help marine animals.

Sincerely,

ROBYN GARNOCK.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing this to you so you can protect the Long Island Sound. Please help protect the Long Island Sound and listen to my letter.

I am 9 years old and love animals. Lots of people litter and that hurts the animals in the Long Island Sound. I am very worried some animals that live there will become extinct. If Congress gives money, we can help keep the Long Island Sound clean. Also, we do not want the water in the Sound to be polluted. We need money to keep it clean. I would like clean water to drink and swim in. Another reason is the Long Island Sound is one of our greatest natural resources and we don't want it ruined.

Thank you for listening to my letter, and do the best you can do to keep the Long Island Sound safe!

Sincerely,

RIO MALITO.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask Congress to set aside money to keep the Long Island Sound clean and a nice place to live next to. There are many reasons why we need to protect this body of water.

One reason we need to protect the Long Island Sound is to protect the animals that live in or next to it. We eat some of those animals and we don't want to eat polluted animals. Another reason is we don't want polluted water in our drinking water. One more reason we need to protect the Long Island Sound is it is one of our greatest natural resources. We swim in the Long Island Sound and also play on beaches next to it.

I am 9 years old, and I realize how important it is to keep the Long Island Sound safe. I hope the people we elect to represent us give this matter their consideration and understand the importance of this issue, not only for people who live near the Long Island Sound, but for the future of the environment we all share.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope you are successful in obtaining funds to protect the Long Island Sound.

Sincerely,

RAYEN KUO.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask Congress to set aside money to keep the Long Island Sound clean and beautiful. There are many reason why we need to protect this body of water.

First, most people come to live in Long Island because we have water around it so people can swim and go fishing. Another reason is all of the fish could be dead because of pollution in the Long Island Sound. Over 20 million people live less than 50 miles from the Long Island Sound. My fourth reason is Long Island Sound is one of our great resources. People like to go banana boating and tubing. How can we do all that if the Long Island Sound is not clean.

I am 10 years old and I realize how important it is to keep the Long Island Sound protected. I hope the people we elect to represent us give this matter their consideration and understand the importance of this issue, people who live near the Long Island Sound, but for the future of the environment we all share.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope you are successful in obtaining funds to protect the Long Island Sound.

Sincerely,

AUSTIN PRINCE.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to ask Congress to set aside money to keep the Long Island Sound clean and a nice place to swim. There are many reasons why we need to protect the Long Island Sound.

One reason to keep the long Island sound clean is because the Long Island Sound brings \$5 billion to our economy. For example, people want to buy clean fish from a fish market and you wouldn't want to buy fish with plastic in them. Also, if we keep on polluting the water, in the future we might have wiped out the piping plover species and a species of fish that might be endangered. Lastly, 20 million people live within 50 miles of the Long Island Sound. You don't want polluted water and garbage on your beaches.

I am 9 years old and I realize how important it is to keep the Long Island Sound protected. I hope the people we elect to represent us give this matter their consideration and understand the importance of the issue.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope you are successful in obtaining funds to protect the Long Island Sound.

Sincerely,

AMELIA CROSBY.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask Congress to set aside money to keep the Long Island Sound clean and beautiful. There are many reasons why we need to protect this body of water.

I am 9 years old and I realize how important it is to keep the Long Island Sound clean. Here are some reasons. First, we need to improve water quality so the marine animals don't get sick. Next, 20 million people live within 50 miles from the Long Island Sound so we have to keep it clean. Finally, the water in the Long Island Sound needs to be clean because it could affect our drinking water. Also, we don't want the garbage from the Sound to be right in front of our houses. Clearly, it is important to keep the Long Island Sound clean.

Sincerely,

ARYAN BADLANI.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: Hello. I am writing this letter so you can ask Congress

to set aside money to keep the Long Island Sound clean and gorgeous. There are a lot of reasons.

I am 10 years old and I wish we can protect the Long Island Sound so it is not polluted. There are more than 20 million people living near the shore of the Long Island Sound. People get fish from the Long Island Sound, so if fish take in polluted water we will eat the fish and we will have the polluted water inside our own body which is bad for us. Lastly, there is a lot of wildlife that live on the Long Island Sound. For example, the Piping Plover is endangered so we need to watch out before they are extinct. There is marine life and will harm the animals. This money is for the future of our lives.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope this will come true.

Sincerely,

AARON CHANG.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing to you so you can ask Congress to set aside

money to keep the Long Island Sound clean and beautiful. I have some reasons why we need to protect this body of water.

One reason is there are endangered animals that really need the Long Island Sound to live. Another reason is people come here to the Long Island Sound to swim and go boating.

I am 9 years old, and I realize how important it is to keep the Long Island Sound protected.

I really hope the people we elect to represent us give this matter their consideration and understand the importance of the issue, not only for the people who live near the Long Island Sound, but for the future of the environment all of us share.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope you are successful in obtaining funds to protect the Long Island Sound.

Sincerely,

NICOLE DAVIDOFF.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN ISRAEL: I am writing this so I can ask you to save the Long Island sound by using money for it because it is really important. Money will help keep it clean and not polluted and animals will be saved.

I am ten year old and I found out how important the Long Island Sound is.

We have to save the Long Island Sound. Polluted and everybody loves it. They love the Sound because the northern beaches have a lot of people that visit, but if the Long Island Sound gets polluted nobody will come to the beaches. Also, when you clean the water you can fish and sell it, but the water is polluted; fish and marine animals are dying and losing their habitats. If the Long Island Sound is not protected in the future nobody will go there.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope you will save the Long Island Sound.

Sincerely,

BRANDON KATZ.